

Message

From: Bellatty, James (ECY) [JBEL461@ECY.WA.GOV]
Sent: 5/12/2016 8:25:23 PM
To: Psyk, Christine [Psyk.Christine@epa.gov]
Subject: FW: News clip: Task force reduces toxics in Spokane River

FYI as referenced during our meeting today.

From: Beeler, Brook (ECY)
Sent: Thursday, May 12, 2016 12:14 PM
To: ECY DL ERO RMT <ECYDLERORMT@ECY.WA.GOV>; Bartlett, Heather (ECY) <heba461@ECY.WA.GOV>; Howard, Sandy (ECY) <srud461@ECY.WA.GOV>; Knight, David T. (ECY) <dkni461@ECY.WA.GOV>; Washington, Diana (ECY) <DWAS461@ECY.WA.GOV>; Borgias, Adriane P. (ECY) <ABOR461@ECY.WA.GOV>; Hallinan, Patrick J. (ECY) <PHAL461@ECY.WA.GOV>; Schmidt, Jeremy (ECY) <JESC461@ECY.WA.GOV>; Key, Ellie (ECY) <EKEY461@ECY.WA.GOV>
Subject: News clip: Task force reduces toxics in Spokane River

Two minute video story at the link below.

<http://www.krem.com/news/local/spokane-county/toxin-task-force-cleaning-up-spokane-river/187171761>

SPOKANE, Wash. – The Spokane River is part of the city's identity, and right now, experts said it is running cleaner.

Nearly 10 years ago, a task force was set up to keep toxins from seeping into the Spokane River. Their work has kept a couple hundred pounds of harmful chemicals out of the water – and they are not done yet.

A cleaner river benefits many, including Andrew Moss, a dad who said the peaceful river is the solution to survival for him and his kids.

"it's a natural way of life for me to get my food and survive,"

Moss, while fishing at river, said it is important that the river is clean and safe. For a while though, the river was often a magnet for pollution and harmful chemicals. It is what prompted the toxin task force ten years ago.

Their goal? Clean up soil around the river, so harmful chemicals do not seep into the river.

A decade later, KREM 2 On Your Side uncovered data that suggest prevention has worked.

According to the Washington State Department of Ecology, 283 pounds of cancer-causing chemicals have been removed from the river's shoreline in the last decade.

Studies have shown that those chemicals – PCBs – stick around for months and even years after exposure. So getting them away from the river faster means a lot less clean later on.

"I'm glad they've cleaned it before I got to it," Moss said.

Officials said they are also looking at fish hatcheries and groundwater all in the effort to keep people like Moss safe.

"It's not just who you see right here, it's half the town," Moss said. "Everyone plays in the river, it brings people together, that's what it does."

